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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOCIETY. The first regular meeting of the Society for the season 1912-1913 was held at the Engineering Societies' Building, No. 29 West 39th Street, on Tuesday evening, November 26, 1912. Vice-President Greenough in the chair. The following persons, fifty-three in number, recommended by the Council, were elected to Fellowship:

Henry S. Adams,	Henry Doscher,
Charles W. Anderson,	John R. Drexel, Jr.,
William D. Appleton,	Coleman du Pont,
Allison V. Armour,	I. N. Dutt,
Francis Tuttle Armstrong,	Stanley Dwight,
Lyndon K. Armstrong,	W. L. Emery,
H. D. Auchincloss,	Amos W. Farnham,
Charles A. Baldwin,	José Ferencz,
Herbert Barber,	C. Harold Floyd,
Edward W. Barnes,	William F. Fluhrer,
Edward Bell,	Frank R. Ford,
Philip Berolzheimer,	Justus Miles Forman,
Cyrus T. Brady, Jr.,	George C. Fraser,
L. F. Braine,	John Shaw French,
Chester A. Braman,	Frederick W. Gordon,
Frederick F. Brewster,	Henry William Guernsey,
Arthur L. Cahn,	Charles J. Harrah,
R. Bishop Canfield,	Edmund Otis Hovey,
Mark A. Carlton,	Miss Annie B. Jennings,
Talbot R. Chambers,	Julian H. Kean,
Ambrose R. Clark,	A. Wilder Pollard,
John William Clark,	George A. Plimpton,
Mrs. Elizabeth Colt,	Augustus J. Rollé,
John Henry Darling,	Benjamin Frank Seaver,
William B. Davenport,	Charles Samuel Tater,
Henry C. Demming,	Daniel E. Willard,
J. Edmund Woodman.	

The recommendation by the Council that Mr. Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, the Arctic explorer and ethnologist, be elected Corresponding Member was presented to the Society and Mr. Stefánsson was duly elected.

The Rev. George Kinney, B.A., addressed the Society on "The Conquest of the Northern Canadian Rockies" with lantern illustrations.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY. A special meeting of the Society was held at the Engineering Societies' Building on Tuesday evening, December 12. Vice-President Greenough in the chair. A large audience listened to an address by Leon Dominian, B.A., formerly of Constantinople, on "The Balkan Peninsula." The lecture was illustrated by a large map and 80 typical views showing many aspects of the various Balkan states and their inhabitants. Mr. Dominian especially emphasized the geographical conditions that had made the Peninsula for many centuries the main highway between Asia and its European extension; and the national characteristics and aspirations of the Balkan races that have shaped their policies and their interrelations.

THE MEDAL TO CAPT. AMUNDSEN. The Charles P. Daly Medal for Geographical Research, voted to Capt. Roald Amundsen in recognition of his achievement of the Northwest Passage and his discovery of the South Pole will be presented to him at the meeting to be held at Carnegie Hall on January 14, when the explorer will describe his sledge journey to the southern apex of the earth.

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH A COUNCILLOR. At its November meeting the Council elected Mr. Edwin Swift Balch of Philadelphia as one of the Councillors of the Society. Mr. Balch has long been a member of the Society and has written a number of papers for the *Bulletin* in which he especially discussed Antarctic exploration and problems.

THE SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS. The Society's Exhibition, open to the members and the general public for ten weeks in the two large rooms on the first floor, was closed on December 5. The collection comprised over 700 photographs illustrating the scenic aspects of the western half of the country, views in the North Carolina Appalachians, and a large number of typical views showing activities in the western and southern states, such as irrigation, dry farming, fruit raising, truck farming for northern market, panoramas and other views of cities, etc. Many cities, railroads and individuals contributed by their exhibits to the success of the enterprise. The attendance was over 2,500.

THE BULLETIN INDEX. The index to the present volume will be issued separately as soon as possible and mailed to all who receive the *Bulletin*. It will continue the *Bulletin* pagination so that it may appear at the end of the bound volume. As usual, it will be an analytical index with references to several thousands of items, conspicuous in the year's output of geographical literature and maps. The index will continue to be helpful to working geographers by guiding them to the most recent writings and maps relating to their various fields of study.

SOUTH AMERICA

A FRENCH DELIMITATION COMMISSION IN BOLIVIA. At the request of the Bolivian government, a French commission will have charge of the delimitation of the boundary line between Bolivia and Peru as well as between Bolivia and Argentina. The total length of frontier involved is about 500 miles. Captain Mailles of the French army will have charge of the mission. Lieut. Vincent will be his assistant. It is hoped that the undertaking of these explorers will allow them to gather data of scientific value while not actually engaged in their duties. (*Jour. de la Soc. des Amér. de Paris. Nouv. Sér. Vol. IX, Fasc. I, 1912.*)

AFRICA

CARTOGRAPHIC WORK IN MOROCCO. In a communication dated from Casablanca on Nov 8, 1912, Capt. Bellot, chief of the Moroccan topographic bureau, writes to *l'Afrique Française* (Nov. 1912, p. 437) giving an account of the progress of cartography in the new French protectorate.

The work of mapping Morocco was begun shortly after the landing of French troops at Casablanca. At the beginning of 1908 a topographic bureau was organized for the purpose of surveying the newly occupied territory. A number of topographers and geodesists of the Service Géographique de l'Armée were detailed for this work. The Service Géographique meanwhile proceeded also with its own surveys in Morocco. While the two organizations worked independently of each other, the general plan adopted was to have the topographic bureau undertake the preliminary work while the Service Géographique was entrusted with the final mapping of the various districts surveyed.

The slow but methodical occupation of the Chaouia region gave time to the workers of the Bureau Topographique to prepare a number of reliable maps between the years 1908 and 1911. Among these, the map of the Chaouia on a scale of 1:100,000, consisting of the Casablanca, Settat, Oulad-Said, Boubeker and Mechra-Ech-Chair sheets, are noteworthy. The military raids undertaken during this period also enabled the Bureau Topographique to prepare a number of itinerary maps of regions which were until then very imperfectly known. The Tadla raid in 1910 gave rise to the 1:200,000 Tadla itinerary maps, while the well-known march to Fez in 1911 was followed by the Fez itinerary map on a scale of 1:100,000.

Since the beginning of 1912 the Bureau Topographique was placed exclusively at the disposal of the local military commander-in-chief and its work since then has been confined to mapping as required by military exigencies, the

regular work of mapping Moroccan territory being entrusted entirely to the Service Géographique de l'Armée.

Between March and July, 1912, an area extending over 4,680 square miles was surveyed by this department. Three sheets entitled Rabat, Meknes and El-Ksar are about to be published as a result of this work. At present the troops are provided with a preliminary map printed at Casablanca and consisting of the sheets entitled Rabat, Mamora and Oued Sebou on a scale of 1:100,000.

According to Captain Bellot's statements the Bureau Topographique may be considered as a sort of cartographic intelligence department. The members of its staff accompany the expeditionary columns and take part in all the operations on new territory. Itinerary and reconnaissance sketch maps are prepared by them along the entire periphery of the zone of occupation and often beyond the most advanced outposts. These preliminary maps are then assembled at headquarters to form a reconnaissance map on a scale of 1:200,000 which constitutes the most important work of the Bureau Topographique. The sheets are in a state of constant revision as new data are accumulated. This necessitates issuance of successive editions in rapid sequence. About 2,500 copies of maps are issued monthly at present and it is expected that this number will be increased considerably in 1913.

By the middle of November, 1912, the preliminary work of the Bureau Topographique had attained the Fez, Meknes, Rabat and Chaouia regions. The districts south of the wadi Tensift and east of the Mechra ben Abbou-Marakesh line will be surveyed this winter while the Service Géographique will cover the Doukkala-Abda pacified zone. Maps of these districts will be published at an early date.

Apart from the 1:200,000 reconnaissance map a number of special sheets have been prepared. The Rabat-Fez, Larache and Chaouia specials have already been published. Each conveys an adequate idea of the importance of the military work confided to the Bureau Topographique. The progress of cartography in Morocco is a fair gauge of the successive stages of French penetration in that country.

LEON DOMINIAN.

ASIA

AN AEOLIAN CITY. V. A. Obruchev, Professor of Geology in the University at Tomsk, writes, in Russian, a paper with this title* describing some remarkable examples of desert wind erosion. The "aeolian city" is in the western part of Chinese Dzungaria, between the Kobuk R. and the eastern end of the Djaïr Mountains. The locality is called Orkhu, or Urkho, by the natives. This district has not hitherto been described. The Pevtsov Expedition camped near it in 1890. In Obruchev's two journeys (1906-07 and 1909) he carefully studied the region and took over one hundred and fifty photographs. Perhaps no other desert region has been more curiously and fantastically diversified by wind erosion than this district. The area covered by these objects is about thirteen miles long and ten miles wide. Standing under the sun of Central Asia and subject to extreme continental climatic conditions, the region is composed of horizontal beds of sandstone and clay of Mesozoic age and in part of Tertiary formations. Three ridges rising some hundreds of feet above the general level cross the area and it is these ridges that have been so marvelously cut and carved by the sand-bearing winds. The illustrations show in much variety masses of stone carved into the semblance of castles, towers, turrets, obelisks, pillars, perpendicular or inclined, and one object, named "witch tower" by the explorer, shows an excellent profile of the human face. Many of these objects, in sculptural process, have been completely separated from the ridge of which they formed a part, thus standing alone. In other places the ridges preserve their integrity excepting that their surface has been elaborately eroded.

The scene of this denudation is entirely waterless, though a little desert vegetation is found on the floors of the larger valleys. In the valley leading to the Shar-toch spring there is, however, a bit of an oasis covered with scrub

* Reprint from *Zemleviedeniye*, Vol. 18, 1911. 22 pp. Map, illus. Moscow, 1912.

and poplars as well as grass, the area being irrigated by the Diam River at flood time. Here the Mongolians lead their herds. Rare but copious rain-storms sometimes occur. Violent windstorms from the west, at intervals of from ten days to a month, occur both in summer and winter, and it is during these periods, naturally, that the process of rock carving is most intense.

H. DE HUTOROWICZ.

POLAR

AMERICAN ARCTIC ENTERPRISES. It is expected that the Crocker Land Expedition will start for the Smith Sound Region, North Greenland, early next summer to carry out some of the plans for which it was organized late in 1911. It will be remembered that the expedition did not sail in 1912 because of the lamentable death of its leader, Mr. George Borup (*Bull.*, Vol. 44, June, pp. 429-431, 1912). Dr. D. B. MacMillan will command the expedition and will be adequately supported by a small scientific staff. The party expects to be in the field three years. It is the intention to reach and map Crocker Land, which Commander Peary believed he saw in 1906 about 125 miles to the northwest of Cape Thomas Hubbard, the northern terminus of Axel Heiberg Land. A far greater and more important feature of the work will be an attempt to travel westward on the northern side of the Parry Archipelago for the purpose of ascertaining, by soundings, the position of the continental shelf in this part of the Arctic Ocean. In the effort to carry out this most desirable work the expedition will have to reconstruct in some respects the programme at first prepared for it.

Mr. V. Stefánsson is now preparing to return to the American Arctic early next summer and expects that his expedition, whose work will be chiefly geographical, will spend three winters and four summers there. The design is to complete the mapping of the coast lines of Victoria Island and Prince Patrick Island and to make three off-shore journeys. The first to the west or northwest from the northwest of Banks Land, the second west and the third north from convenient points on Prince Patrick Island. The main objects of these journeys will be the discovery and delineation of new land if there be any within reach or the determining of the continental shelf if no land be found. Tidal and meteorological observations will be systematically taken at two or more stations; and geographical data of other sorts will be gathered as far as the size of the staff of the expedition shall permit. One member of the staff will be a geologist. Mr. Stefánsson will also endeavor to determine the former range of human occupation of the Arctic Islands and the character of the culture of their inhabitants. Further archæological and ethnological studies will be carried on.

It is too early as yet to give the detailed plans of the two expeditions. All the money involved in these enterprises will be well expended if the two parties succeed in outlining the position of the edge of the continental shelf to the north of the Arctic islands. In the opinion of the leading polar authorities the completion of this work will show conclusively whether any land masses exist to the north of the most northern coasts now established in the American Arctic Archipelago.

It is expected that both expeditions will be adequately equipped with men and supplies for a long sojourn and the achievement of the best attainable results.

RETURN OF DR. R. M. ANDERSON. Dr. Anderson of the American Museum of Natural History, who has been for four years past with Mr. Stefánsson in the American Arctic collecting specimens of animal life for the Museum, arrived in San Francisco on Nov. 1 and a few days later in New York. His collections number about 1,000 specimens of mammals and birds. He returned some weeks later than Mr. Stefánsson owing to the necessity of shipping and caring for his collections, which were finally packed away on the steam whaler *Belvedere*, Capt. S. F. Cottle, at Cape Bathurst. The whaling season was not closed and the cruise after Dr. Anderson went on board was north through Beaufort Sea to Banks Land, then west, passing Point Barrow on Sept. 28 and steaming on to Herald Island before turning homeward through Bering Strait.

DR. MAWSON'S ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION. The *Aurora*, Dr. Mawson's vessel, returned to Wilkes Land in November to bring Mawson and his party back to Australia. The *Geographical Journal* (Nov., 1912, p. 567) says that the *Aurora* arrived at Lyttelton Harbor, N. Z., on July 16, after completing a winter cruise in eastern sub-Antarctic waters. Four days were spent in the neighborhood of 140° W. Long, searching for the reported Royal Company Islands, but they were not found and Captain Davis says they do not exist where laid down on the chart. There may, however, be land in that vicinity, but the sounding machine could not be used on account of bad weather, and so this means of finding indications of shoaling or otherwise was not available. The wireless station at Macquarie Island was working well, daily weather reports being sent to Melbourne, Hobart and Wellington. The operator believes that his messages were received at Mawson's base camp in Antarctica, but as part of that apparatus is damaged the operator there was unable to transmit messages to Macquarie Island.

OBITUARY

FRANCIS MCNEIL BACON. Mr. Bacon, for thirty years a member of the Society and for twenty years a member of the Council, died on Sept. 21, 1912. A minute adopted by the Council, at its meeting on Nov. 21, said in part: "Mr. Bacon was an extensive and observant traveler, of excellent judgment and rare executive ability. He was much interested in this Society and did much to promote its success. By his uniform courtesy and consideration he endeared himself to all who had relations with him. In him the Society has lost a wise councillor, a diligent officer and a loyal supporter."

ANDREW G. AGNEW. Mr. Agnew, a member of the Society since 1885 and elected to the Council in 1908, died on Oct. 6. In the resolutions adopted at its November meeting the Council expressed its appreciation of Mr. Agnew as a useful and valued member whose sound judgment and charming personality had earned for him the admiration and affection of his fellow members.

GENERAL

CHANGE OF PUBLICATION: ERRATUM. In a note entitled "Change of Publication" in the August *Bull.* (Vol. 44, No. 8, 1912, pp. 610-611) it was inadvertently stated that the "Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Meereskunde, etc.," had been amalgamated with the "Geographische Abhandlungen" and that the former had ceased to be published. This is not the case. Both publications continue, but each begins a new series. The Geographical Institute of the University of Berlin, however, severs its connection with the Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Meereskunde and becomes sponsor of the Geographische Abhandlungen. The complete titles of the two publications since the inception of their new series are, therefore: "Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Meereskunde an der Universität Berlin: Neue Folge" and "Geographische Abhandlungen: Neue Folge," with the sub-title "Veröffentlichungen des Geographischen Instituts an der Universität Berlin." The former publication has been divided into two series, *viz.*: "A. Geographisch-naturwissenschaftliche Reihe" and "B. Historisch-volkswirtschaftliche Reihe." In Series A two numbers have already been published: "Untersuchungen über das Pflanzen- und Tierleben der Hochsee" by H. Lohmann (Heft 1) and "Tiefenkarten der Ozeane" by Max Groll (Heft 2). In Series B one number has been issued: "Die Grundlagen der Schifffahrtsstatistik" by Walter Vogel (Heft 1). The first number in the new series of the Geographische Abhandlungen, which constitutes No. 1 of Vol. 10, is entitled "Die Übertiefung des Tessingebiets" by Hermann Lautensack.

The Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Meereskunde, since their inception in 1902, have been and are being published by E. S. Mittler & Sohn of Berlin. The Geographische Abhandlungen, from their inception in 1886 to 1903, were published by Eduard Hölzel of Vienna, subsequently (beginning with Vol. VII, No. 2 or No. 3) they have appeared under the imprint of B. G. Teubner of Leipzig and Berlin.